

BOARD OF FINANCE
APRIL 12, 2007

Present: Kathleen McGannon; George Areson; Marty Shapiro; Tom Tesoro; Russell Friedson; William Crooks; alternates Joanna Bruner; Patrick Helfrich; Alex Robinson

Also present: Jim Nugent, Chairman, Building Committee; Bill Silver, Silver Petrucelli; Mike Andreana, Bond Counsel; Steve Kennedy

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Kathleen McGannon. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our service men and women stationed around the world.

The Chair welcomed Alex Robinson who is replacing Michael London as an alternate.

The following is a brief summary of the session. The complete record is on tape in the office of the Finance Department.

Public Comments...The Chair announced to the public that if someone does not wish to speak a sheet will be passed around for them to sign for or against the "Renovation as New Expansion of Trumbull H.S." This will become part of the public record along with the many emails that have been received.

Tom Collins, 67 Cranberry Dr...co-president of Trumbull Pisces swim team...spoke in favor of adding the pool with the like new high school renovation. Hillcrest Pool is the most used sports venue in town and is used by all (special needs, families, water aerobics, high school swim teams). The pool now is a community pool and no longer fits the needs of Trumbull.

Kathy Miranti, 47 Pine St...she is against the "like new" renovation, the pool and the community center. Why did we spend \$15,000 for a survey when it would have cost nothing to put it up to a vote on the May 15th special election? In three years, the town has bonded \$68,436,000 and now we are adding \$80,400,000, for a total bonded debt of \$148,836,000 in a three year period. I am concerned about the three issues, health issues concerning dust, interruption of the children's education by the construction work being done which has not been addressed at all. Both of my children attend the high school and are against this.

Laine McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Dr., stated that not all taxpayers are against this. This is an opportunity to provide something for everybody in town. If this is done the right way everyone in the community will benefit. Facilities for the seniors need to be addressed also.

Marty Isaac, 50 Skating Pond Road...is an advocate of the “like new renovation”. I think the reason taxes go up is because the government does not spend the money efficiently. This is an opportunity for the town to spend its money efficiently and is a great opportunity for the taxpayer.

Dennis McCloughlin, 125 Crabapple Road...supports the like new renovation and pool.

Linda Davidson, Tashua Road...totally against this renovation. If something goes wrong, you need to fix it. You don’t need to keep upping taxes.

Sigourney Norman, 8 Meadowview Road, 16 year old student...stated that although she will not benefit from the planned improvements, she would like to see it happen for the town and the future Trumbull students.

Carmine Denicola, 66 Great Neck Road...we have lost our common sense. We need to get back to the basics and provide the skills needed for those students who want to work with their hands and not go on to college. He was on the referendum committee and got over 1400 signatures, mostly from seniors who said do something for us. No one thinks about the senior citizen.

Louise Custodio, 19 Great Neck Road...With all the terrible school tragedies throughout the nation, why are we attracting people to our high school that would not normally be there. Separate entrances are not sufficient. Why can’t we go to the community center in the library or put the community center at Indian Ledge.

Mark Ribbins, 47 High Ridge Road is a principal in another school district who resides in Trumbull. He is in favor of a “like new renovation”. Even though it is very expensive, it is something that needs to be done. What students need to be taught today to succeed has changed from 30 years ago and the school building has not kept up.

Linda Bardolucci, 129 Fresh Meadow...encourages everyone to take a tour of the high school. She supports the “like new renovation.”

Joe Mitri, Sr., 12 Jog Hill Road...he is against the renovation. We do not need a pool and he believes we should have a referendum.

R. Bocchino, 51 Endeavor St...Feels strongly about the renovation taking place.

_____feels strongly against the community center and pool.

Joann Zimmerman, 4672 Madison Avenue...supports the renovation of the high school.

Vicki Tesoro, 133 Beechwood Avenue...supports the “like new renovation”. This is the right thing to do for our community, our property values and our children. She also feels

this is a big burden to put on the seniors and should offer other tax relief programs for them.

Roy Fuchs...supports the high school renovation. Every community is facing the same issues we are. The key to supporting home values is through the quality of the schools. See Attachment #1

Rick Henrietta, 112 Strobel Road...Suggests spending the money more on teachers not on the school.

Kate Donohue, 82 Meadowview...The cost to renovate the school is a one time expense. To spend it on teachers is an annual expense and you pay it over and over again. The longer we wait to renovate, the more it will cost. Nothing is going to go down in cost. We have been talking about this for fifteen years.

Valerie Newman, 70 Horse Tavern Road...we need to invest in the children's education, and I am very much in support of the funding for the like new renovation.

4-07-01...Mr. Areson moved; Mr. Tesoro seconded to approve as presented.

Resolution appropriating \$68,563,000 for the costs associated with the "Renovation as New" and expansion of Trumbull High School and authorizing the issue of \$68,563,000 bonds of the town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

The Chair thanked Mr. Nugent and Mr. Silver for answering many of the Board's questions during the weeks prior to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Silver recommended the amount be changed to \$68,671,120.

Mr. Areson withdrew his initial motion; Mr. Tesoro withdrew his second.

Mr. Areson moved to amend amount to \$68,671,120; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Bond counsel recommended rounding the amount off to the next thousand.

Mr. Areson withdrew his amendment; Mr. Shapiro withdrew his second.

Mr. Areson moved to amend amount to \$68,672,000; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Jim Nugent, Chairman of the Building Committee, stated that this is not a new project. Time is of the essence due to the June 30, 2007 deadline for submission of the ED049 to the State of CT. The renovation will be phased over five years.

Bill Silver of Silver Petrucelli made a power point presentation to the Board. He showed the overall footprint of the school and broke it down into various phases.

Mr. Crooks stated that the cost figure given of \$68,671,000 was not adjusted for what the green cost would be, anywhere from 2-5%, and therefore you could be seeking a supplemental appropriation after this to make the adjustment. Mr. Silver stated that is possible. Last year a law was passed that required State buildings to meet the Silver Leed level. Experience in surrounding states has been that 2-3% more is spent during the design phase.

Steve Kennedy stated that savings in a Silver building can be more cost effective. These buildings are healthier, air quality is better. He also stated that the silver leeds are being considered by the state for possible 100% reimbursement.

Mr. Crooks asked that since the money for this is not in tonight's bonding resolution and assuming it goes through, has the building committee decided when the bid is put out, would an alternate bid on leeds be included so we could see what the true cost of that particular item was and could the ED049 be amended at a later date to include this.

Mr. Nugent said that this is something that the committee could consider doing.

Mr. Friedson asked if the committee looked at breaking this into phases to make sure there are multiple firms to do this project. Mr. Nugent replied that they have not gotten that far to determine how we are going to bid this. This is not going to occur until sometime next year and we will consider what is best at that time.

Mr. Friedson asked Mr. Andreana, bond counsel, if it could be written into the bond that whatever is done is paid back in level principal payments. Mr. Andreana replied that there are two choices as far as your maturity schedule: 1. you either have to have a level debt schedule or 2. your maturity in any future year does not exceed more than 50% of the prior year.

Mr. Crooks confirmed with Mrs. Heim that the administration does not intend to go away from double payments or bond ban interest. F/S concurred.

Ms. Robinson stated that some sort of renovation needs to happen at Trumbull High. Have taken the tour there and would like everybody to keep in mind that this is the biggest bond to come before this board. We cannot take a bond of this size for every school. We need to come up with a middle ground as every school needs to have some work done.

Mr. Areson made a statement prior to voting on this resolution. See Attachment #2

Mr. Crooks cannot support a full plan such as this. He would therefore offer a modification supporting much of Plan A and much of Plan B and offered an amendment to the present amount and that the amount be reduced to \$39,200,000; seconded by Mr.

Friedson. This would change the scope of the project.; therefore, this could not be acted on until the vote is taken on the amended amount of \$68,672,000.

Vote on amended to change the amount to \$68,672,000: Motion carries 4 – 2

Mr. Crooks moved to amend amount to \$39,200,000 and that all wording referring to renovation as new or any other related wording be eliminated; seconded by Mr. Friedson.

Mr. Friedson stated it is not fair for kids to have their parents taxed out of town.

Vote on amended amount of \$39,200,000, etc. Motion fails 4 – 2

Vote on amended motion: Motion carries 4 – 2

4/07/02...Mr. Areson moved; Mr. Tesoro seconded to approve as presented.

Resolution appropriating \$11,965,000 for the costs associated with the construction of a swimming pool/community complex adjacent to Trumbull High School and authorizing the issue of \$11,965,000 bonds of the town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Mr. Crooks' understanding is that if the pool is not going to be used for instructional purposes we do not receive any state reimbursement. He questions why there is 15.8% built in as reimbursement for the pool area only. Mr. Silver stated that the state does not place any condition on the pool as part of the reimbursement. The state, for athletic complexes only, start reimbursement at 50% of their gross value.

Mr. Shapiro motioned to reduce total amount by \$1,236,480 for the community center and all language relating to the community center for a total of \$10,729,000; seconded by Mr. Tesoro.

There have been some concerns about traffic, security, and the use of the showers by the public. Has there been a traffic study done? Will more security be needed to be sure people don't evade the school properly? Will existing showers be used?

The building committee is going to look at where the pool would be located, the parking, disruption to the traffic flow around the school. The pool may end up at an entirely different corner of the high school and once the building committee sits down and figures out where the site will be, then those matters will be addressed.

Mr. Areson stated that if the Town Council would like the committee to look at a different site that is their prerogative. There is no reason to delay this tonight. It can be handled at the council level.

Mr. Friedson feels it is ludicrous to be spending money on a facility to encourage non school people to come on school property during the school day. It is totally irresponsible to spend money when we are all concerned about security.

Mr. Tesoro stated that all this is doing is allowing the Town Council the flexibility to it in the June 30th proposal if they so choose.

Mr. Crooks moved to table the vote on this item for one month; seconded by Mr. Friedson. Motion fails 2 – 4

Vote on amended amount of \$10,729,000 carries 6 – 0

Vote on main motion as amended carries 4 – 2

Motion to adjourn (Shapiro); seconded (Tesoro)

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bokine, Clerk